

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-19. (canceled)

20. (new) A process for constructing a layout of an edition of a document, comprised the steps of:

storing in a database information relative to structure, arrangement and content of a layout of a sheet of a document to be printed, the sheet including at least one visual element, the information being stored in the database in fields that are interconnected by connections and including first fields that store a description of a content of the at least one visual element, and second fields that store a description of an arrangement and presentation of the at least one visual element and of a structure of the layout;

displaying a visual representation of the layout on a first display based on the information in the database;

automatically controlling the first display and the database so that all modifications of the layout made on the first display are automatically made in the database and so that all modifications of the layout made in the database are automatically displayed on the first display; and

modifying the visual representation of the layout in one of the first display and the database.

21. (new) The process according to claim 20, wherein when the visual representation of the layout is modified, corresponding changes to a respective one of the display and database are made substantially in real time.

22. (new) The process according to claim 20, wherein the visual representation of the layout is also displayed on a second display separate from the first display, the first and second displays being connected to the database by a network, and wherein a modification of the visual representation of the layout is automatically and substantially made in real time at both the first and second displays.

23. (new) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of providing automatic control of a relationship between at least two of the visual elements of the layout, the automatic control being based on predetermined rules and taking account of graphic criteria.

24. (new) The process according to claim 23, wherein the automatic control takes place in real time and reciprocally between all the visual elements of the layout.

25. (new) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of defining plural containers that each contains at least one of the visual elements, each of the

containers of a same layout being automatically controlled between each other with respect to position and size.

26. (new) The process according to claim 20, further comprising the steps of:

a) associating, in the database, parameters with the visual elements permitting automatic and/or manual selection of the visual elements;

b) selecting from the database ones of the visual elements adapted to enter into the layout;

c) selecting and/or defining a design for the layout so as to create the information for the database;

d) selecting an order of implantation and locations of the selected visual elements on the layout; and

e) repeating steps a)-d) for each sheet of the document.

27. (new) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of defining a hierarchy between the visual elements and automatically controlling a hierarchical arrangement among the visual elements so that a modification of one of the visual elements is automatically reflected in a modification of the hierarchical arrangement of the other visual elements.

28. (new) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of storing in the database identifications associated with each of the visual elements and a history of

modifications of each of the visual element accessible by their identifications.

29. (new) The process according to claim 20, further comprising a step of providing filters that control access to the layout as a function of an authorization of a user.